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A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 1686 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 29th March 1930.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" Am I to understand, Sir, that in the course of the last ten months (since March 1930), no progress has been made by the Government in coming to a decision on this question?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—" Since the answer to this question was sent to the Legislative Council Office, we have received information on the financial effect of the restoration of the jamabandi allowance. So far as ryotwari villages are concerned, the restoration involves an increased cost of Rs. 2,87,650, while the saving in the jamabandi allowances is Rs. 2,05,615. Again, the restoration of the village establishment in the ryotwari villages alone has cost more than before the restoration, and consequently there are no funds available from that source to expend on jamabandi allowances. If we take the proprietary villages into account as well, the net increase in cost is Rs. 1,77,315 and the total saving in the zamindari as well as ryotwari areas on the withdrawal of the jamabandi allowances is Rs 2,12,253. Taking the whole expenditure and savings into account, we find that there is a saving of Rs. 34,938. It is not therefore possible to restore the jamabandi allowances in full. The old jamabandi allowance was Rs. 5 a year for a headman or karnam, and a karnam also received Rs. 5 a year for attending at the taluk office to close his accounts. The present saving is sufficient to provide an allowance of 13 annas 2 pies in place of five rupees. I do not know if it is worth while to give this small sum to village officers. As at present advised I do not consider it desirable to offer them this small sum."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Sir, in the answer to this question, attention has been drawn to an answer given in March 1930. In such cases, may I request the hon. Minister to repeat the answer previously given?"

Aircraft

Aerodrome for the City of Madras.

11-30 a.m. * 69 *Q.*—Mr. F. E. JAMES: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the Madras Corporation on October the 1st regarding the urgent necessity of providing a suitable aerodrome in or near the city;

(*b*) what action, if any, he has taken or proposes to take in regard to this resolution;

(*c*) whether Government is prepared to assist in providing a suitable aerodrome for Madras by acquiring the necessary land for the purpose; and

(*d*) whether the Government has represented to the Government of India the claims of South India to main air-line communication?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*d*) As the hon. Member is aware, " Aircraft and all matters connected therewith" is a Central subject and the Local Government are merely the agents of the Government of India in the matter. A copy of the Resolution has therefore been forwarded to the Government of India.

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(c) The Government are not in a position to give any undertaking in the matter.

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" May I ask whether the Government have recommended the acquisition of a suitable site for an aerodrome ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" They have not recommended anything, but they have asked that any scheme which may be under consideration may be referred to them before a decision is come to."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" I should like to get a direct answer from the Government to the question whether they are or are not prepared to render assistance in the matter ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" I would refer the hon. Member to clause (c) of the answer."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" In clause (b) of the answer the Government say that a copy of the resolution has therefore been forwarded to the Government of India. May I know whether that resolution has been backed up by the strong recommendation of the Government or whether it has been simply forwarded ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" I have already answered that question."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what the state of mind of the Member for Government is with regard to his preparedness to assist or not to assist ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" His state of mind is one of suspension of judgment." (Laughter.)

Local Boards

Vice-Presidentship of the Cuddapah District Board.

* 70 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) when did the Vice-Presidentship of the Cuddapah District Board fall vacant ;

(b) whether the place is now filled up ; and

(c) whether there has been any delay in filling up the place and if so, how long and why ?

A.—(a) On the 5th August 1930.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. An election to fill the office of Vice-President was held on the 30th July 1930 when the vacancy had not actually occurred. This election was therefore, Government were advised, illegal and was accordingly cancelled by them in August last and a fresh election ordered. The re-election took place on the 29th November 1930 and has since been gazetted. Government have no information in regard to the delay in the re-election.

Mr K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know if there is a rule which says that an election should take place within a certain number of days after the occurrence of a vacancy ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Yes, Sir, there is a rule which says that an election to fill up a vacancy should be held within fifteen days."